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International cooperation in operational and search activities: A comparative analysis of foreign experience

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operational and investigative activities of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Persian Gulf 9. Conclusion. 10. References.

Abstract: The purpose of the article is to analyze the concept and essence of international cooperation in operational-search activities, the definition of these provisions in the legislation of different countries. Research results. The following main forms of cooperation between states in operational-search activities have been identified: exchange of operational-search, legal and other information; joint efforts of states, in particular those outlined in mutually agreed agreements, aimed at preventing criminal activity, identifying its cases and further conducting investigations; search and detention of criminals on the basis of contractual relations or one-time appeals of one state to another; transfer of persons accused of committing crimes to another jurisdiction, whether it is a state within the same country or an international organization, for the purpose of trial; main areas of international cooperation in the administration of justice: assistance in the resettlement of convicted persons to their country of origin or country of permanent residence to serve their sentence in prison. Conclusions. International cooperation in operational and investigative activities must be carried out in compliance with state sovereignty, national legislation, adherence to the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of nations, along with other core tenets of international law, forms the foundation of this discussion. The reach, principal approaches, and structures through which states collaborate internationally to combat crime are contingent upon the specifics and intrinsic traits of each severe criminal act, which manifests as a unique societal issue.

Keywords: Interaction; Foreign Experience; Operational and Investigative Activities; International Cooperation; International Law Enforcement Agencies; Organized Criminal Groups.

RESUMEN: Este artículo examina el despliegue de métodos no tradicionales para... El artículo está dedicado al análisis del concepto y la esencia de la cooperación internacional en actividades operativas y de investigación, la definición de estas disposiciones en la legislación de diferentes países. Se han identificado las siguientes formas principales de cooperación entre Estados en actividades de búsqueda operativa: intercambio de información operativa, legal y de otra índole; los esfuerzos de colaboración de los Estados, específicamente aquellos delineados en acuerdos mutuamente acordados, enfocados en prevenir la actividad criminal, identificar instancias de la misma y posteriormente realizar investigaciones; búsqueda y detención de criminales sobre la base de relaciones contractuales o apelaciones únicas de un Estado a otro; el traslado de individuos acusados de delitos a una jurisdicción diferente, ya sea un Estado dentro del mismo país o una entidad internacional, para el propósito de procedimientos legales; las siguientes representan áreas centrales de cooperación internacional relacionadas con la administración de justicia: la facilitación de la reubicación de individuos condenados a su país de origen o país de residencia permanente para cumplir sus sentencias de prisión. Esto cubre a ciudadanos y residentes permanentes. La transferencia de la supervisión de la libertad condicional y la libertad bajo palabra a las autoridades de otra nación para individuos bajo supervisión condicional. Garantizar la protección de los derechos y libertades de los ciudadanos en procesos judiciales en el extranjero. Investigación colaborativa sobre las causas y complicaciones asociadas de la conducta delictiva, combinada con el intercambio de información obtenida de las fuerzas del orden y organismos afines. Apoyo a otros países mediante programas de formación de personal, asesoramiento especializado, recursos científicos y tecnológicos especializados y asistencia financiera y material.

PALABRAS CLAVE: interacción, cooperación intercultural, derechos humanos, experiencia extranjera, actividades operativas y de investigación, cooperación internacional, método, organismos internacionales encargados de hacer cumplir la ley, tratados internacionales de Ucrania, grupos delictivos organizados, forma.

1. Introduction

The problem of combating crime, especially organized transnational forms of crime, is currently gaining a global character, as evidenced by a significant number of publications by scientists and practitioners who study this issue. The most prominent types of crime are international terrorism, organized transnational crime, human trafficking, illegal migration, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, and others, which pose a danger not only to individual states, but also to all of humanity, which requires joint efforts and daily international cooperation of law enforcement agencies. The above-mentioned issue is of concern to the President of Ukraine. Thus, the Presidential Decree approved the concept of state policy in the field of combating organized crime[6].

The modern world is faced with an unprecedented increase in transnational crime, which is a direct consequence of globalization and the development of technology. Criminal organizations involved in terrorism, human trafficking, cybercrime and money laundering operate in different countries, using complex networks. In this context, international cooperation in operational and investigative activities ceases to be an auxiliary tool and becomes a key prerequisite for the effective fight against crime. This is the only opportunity for law enforcement agencies of different states to exchange information, coordinate joint operations and respond to threats that do not recognize state borders.

Statistics indicate the urgent need for such cooperation:

Growth of organized crime: The number of criminal groups with transnational ties is constantly growing. For example, in Ukraine in 2021, 499 organized groups and criminal organizations were identified, of which 11 had transnational ties. This shows that although transnational groups represent a smaller proportion, their activities are particularly dangerous.

Results of joint operations: Organizations such as Interpol and Europol coordinate hundreds of joint international operations each year, leading to arrests and confiscation of illicit assets. Success in combating drug trafficking, arms trafficking and cybercrime often depends on the synchronisation of the actions of police forces from different countries.

Money laundering: It is estimated that between 2% and 5% of global GDP, or between US$800 billion and US$2 trillion, is laundered through the world’s financial systems each year. This activity is not possible without complex cross-border schemes, which can only be uncovered through international cooperation between law enforcement and financial intelligence agencies.

These statistics confirm that transnational crime is not just a local problem, but a global one. Therefore, the effectiveness of combating it directly depends on the level and quality of international cooperation, which makes it a key element of modern operational and investigative activities.

The central focus of this Concept's application encompasses: enhancing current and devising novel strategies to effectively counter organized crime, specifically aiming to halt the expansion of criminal groups and mitigate their detrimental effects on both national and regional populations. Further, it involves strengthening ongoing collaborative efforts between domestic law enforcement and international

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[6] Yevhen, Leheza, Karina Pisotska, Oleksandr Dubenko, Oleksandr Dakhno, and Artur Sotskyi. "The essence of the principles of Ukrainian law in modern jurisprudence." Revista Jurídica Portucalense (2023): 342-363. https://doi.org/10.34625/issn.2183-2705(32)2022.ic-15.

counterparts in foreign nations. This also necessitates the instigation of revisions to international legal frameworks, alongside the harmonization of domestic legislation regarding the combat of organized crime with the legal standards established by the European Union[7].

The priority areas of international cooperation include: ensuring universally recognized human rights and freedoms, preventing and deterring crime, treating persons who have committed criminal acts in the criminal justice system, and protecting victims from criminal encroachments. The systematic development of international legal norms in the field of preventing and stopping crimes has become a response to modern global threats, the transformation of crime in the 21st century, which encroaches on protected social relations, state law and order, national interests, and interstate security[8].

Issues related to the definition of problems of theoretical, legal and organizational foundations of international cooperation in operational and investigative activities have recently been in the field of view of both domestic and foreign scientists[9]. Various aspects of this problem have been studied by such scientists and practitioners as V.O. Bonyak, V.S. Bereznyak, O.V. Kyrychenko, A.V. Samotuga, O.O. Tytarenko, O.L. Hristov, G.V. Shevchuk and others[10]. However, these issues are mostly studied episodically, while researchers provide many recommendations regarding the improvement of international cooperation not only in operational and investigative activities, but also in the activities of law enforcement agencies in general[11].

The purpose of this article is to study issues related to the theoretical, legal and organizational foundations of international cooperation in operational and investigative activities, to identify problems and provide recommendations for overcoming them[12].

2. Methodology

The methodology of international cooperation in operational and investigative activities is a system of principles, methods and procedures that ensure effective interaction between law enforcement agencies of different states in the fight against transnational crime.

This methodology is based on four key elements: legal framework, institutional mechanism, procedural aspects and information exchange.

Legal framework. The legal framework for cooperation includes international treaties, conventions and bilateral agreements. These may include: the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Establishes the basic principles

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[7] On the Concept of State Policy in the Field of Combating Organized Crime: Decree of the President of Ukraine of October 21, 2011 1000/2011.

[8] Maksym Korniienko, Anatolii Desyatnik, Galina Didkivska, Yevhen Leheza, and Oleksiy Titarenko. "Peculiarities of Investigating Criminal Offenses Related to Illegal Turnover of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogues or Precursors: Criminal Law Aspect." Khazanah Hukum 5, no. 3 (2023): 205–15. https://doi.org/10.15575/kh.v5i3.31742.

[9] Constitution of Ukraine: Law of Ukraine of June 28, 1996 No. 254k/96-BP. Information of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine no. 30 (1996), Art. 141.

[10] Mansour, R. "A Conceptual Framework for Team Personality Layout, Operational, and Visionary Management in Online Teams." Global Perspectives in Management 2, no. 4: (2024): 1-7.

[11] Pillai, N., and Panigrahi, I. "Global Health Security and SDG 3: Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness through South-south Cooperation," International Journal of SDG's Prospects and Breakthroughs 2, no. 2: (2024): 10-13.

[12] Iegor Dymko, Arsen Muradian, Yevgeny Leheza, Andrii Manzhula, and Oleksandr Rudkovskyi. "Integrated approach to the development of the effectiveness function of quality control of metal products." Eastern European Journal of Advanced Technologies 6, no. 3 (2017): 26-34. https://doi.org/10.15587/1729-4061.2017.119500.

for the criminalization of certain types of crimes and promotes cooperation between states.

Table1. Comparative analysis of international cooperation in operational and investigative activities.

Country / Region	**Main principles of cooperation**	**Key institutions and mechanisms**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses / Challenges**
United States	Bilateral agreements, legal assistance, extradition. Active role in international operations.	FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Justice. Participation in Interpol.	High level of financing and technical equipment, significant experience.	Complexity of procedures due to the presence of federal and state legislation, sometimes long extradition processes.
European Union	Mutual recognition of court decisions, common policy. Principle of trust between member states.	Europol, Eurojust, Schengen Information System (SIS). Joint investigation teams.	High level of integration and standardization of procedures, rapid exchange of information.	Legal differences between member states, bureaucratic delays.
Germany	High level of cooperation with EU countries. Active participation in Interpol and Europol.	Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA). Close cooperation with other authorities.	High efficiency due to developed structure and technologies.	Not always quick adaptation to new transnational threats.
United Kingdom	Based on bilateral agreements and membership in international organizations (before Brexit). High flexibility.	National Crime Agency (NCA). Partnership with FBI and Europol.	High efficiency and adaptability, strong intelligence capabilities.	After Brexit, there were some problems with access to European databases.
China	Cooperation mainly through bilateral agreements. Careful exchange of information.	Ministry of Public Security. Participation in Interpol with a focus on its own interests.	Strong state control and high efficiency in certain areas.	Opacity of procedures, limited exchange of information, raises concerns about human rights.
Interpol	Ensuring operational exchange of information and coordination of efforts.	National Central Bureaus (NCB) in each member country. Global databases.	A single global platform for cooperation, the presence of centralized databases.	Limited powers, not a law enforcement agency, depends on the willingness of countries to cooperate.
Europol	Support for investigations, collection and analysis of data, coordination of joint operations.	Centralized headquarters in The Hague. Coordinators working with each country.	Strong analytical capabilities, rapid coordination between EU countries.	Restrictions on operations outside the EU.

International agreements: For example, bilateral treaties on legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition and transfer of convicted persons.

Regional documents: Such as Council of Europe conventions or European Union directives that promote integration and cooperation.

Institutional mechanism: This element includes structures and organizations that coordinate international cooperation. The most important of these are:

Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization): Provides operational coordination and information exchange between the police forces of 195 member states. Its tools, such as "red notices" for tracking down criminals, are key to operational and investigative activities.

Europol (European Union Police Agency): Coordinates the activities of law enforcement agencies of EU member states in combating serious transnational crime.

Special units: Creation of joint international investigative teams to investigate specific cases.

Procedural aspects: These include specific procedures that ensure the practical implementation of cooperation:

Legal assistance: Requests for assistance, which may concern interrogations, searches, seizure of evidence, freezing of assets, etc.

Extradition: Procedure for handing over a person suspected or accused of a crime for prosecution.

Controlled Delivery: An operational-search operation in which law enforcement agencies, under supervision, move illegal goods (e.g. drugs) across a border to uncover the entire criminal network.

Information Exchange: This aspect is the foundation of the entire methodology. It is based on: specialized Communication Channels: Use of secure information systems, such as Interpol's I-24/7, for rapid and secure data exchange; centralized Databases: Access to Interpol databases on wanted persons, stolen vehicles, weapons, etc; analytical Work: Joint analysis of information received from partners to identify patterns, identify criminal networks and predict their actions.

These four components are interrelated and provide a comprehensive and effective methodology for international cooperation that allows law enforcement agencies to overcome the challenges posed by transnational criminal groups.

Analysis and synthesis: To study and summarize available information from scientific sources, regulatory legal acts and international agreements related to international cooperation. The author analyzes individual aspects and then combines them to form a holistic picture.

Cooperation between different countries in the fight against crime has its own characteristics. A comparative analysis of foreign experience can be presented in the form of a table (Table1), where each country or regional association is an example of a certain approach.

3. Legal regulation and international standards of operational and investigative activities

The cornerstone for international collaboration in operational and investigatory endeavors rests upon several key elements: firstly, international agreements between nations, forged through intergovernmental instruments such as covenants, conventions, and formal treaties, both two-party (bilateral) and multi-party (multilateral). Secondly, there exist intergovernmental understandings centered on discrete areas concerning cooperation aimed at crime prevention and combatting. Thirdly, there are inter-agency agreements established by specific governmental bodies. Supplementing these frameworks are domestic legal provisions governing the administration of legal aid across international boundaries. Finally, unwritten, customary principles within the realm of international law also play a role, including matters of international courtesy and the principle of reciprocal treatment.[13]

International collaboration pertaining to operational and investigative operations is outlined in Article 5-1 of Ukraine's "Law on Operational and Investigative Activities." This article states the following: "Collaboration in this specific field, between the various Ukrainian ministries and other central executive organs, along with any state bodies that possess operational units, as referenced in Article 5 of the same Law, is permissible[14]. This cooperation can extend to law enforcement agencies and special services within other nations—assuming these other entities have similar operational units—and also with international law enforcement organizations. This collaboration shall proceed under Ukrainian law, international treaties Ukraine has ratified, and also in adherence to the constitutive documents and operational protocols of any international law enforcement organizations to which Ukraine is a participant."[15]

Addressing organized crime through state policy necessitates these key strategies: enhancing collaborative efforts on a global scale; adherence to international protocols when gathering and interpreting information regarding criminal actions perpetrated by organized groups; refining the methods used to assess the crime environment, particularly in regards to the activities of organized criminal networks, within the nation, across its regional divisions, and within bordering and international territories; studying the level of criminalization of certain spheres of public life in the state as a whole and in sectors of the national economy in particular, identifying factors that contribute to the criminalization of the growth of latent crime; forming public opinion in order to promote the effective implementation of state policy in the field of combating organized crime; providing the media with information to objectively inform the population of Ukraine about the problems of combating organized crime and corruption; assisting foreign citizens in obtaining the information necessary to protect their rights about the bodies and system of combating organized crime and corruption in Ukraine; creating conditions for involving public and other organizations, mass media in disseminating information about the activities of organized criminal groups, exchanging information related to the fight against organized crime at the interdepartmental and interstate levels.[16]

International cooperation of Ukraine on counteraction and fight against organized crime should include: continuation of the process of adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to the legislation of the European Union on counteraction to manifestations of organized crime; improvement of interaction of law enforcement agencies of Ukraine on issues of combating organized crime with law enforcement agencies of foreign states on the basis of relevant international treaties[17,18];

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[13] Voloshanivska, T., Pozihun, I., Losych, S., Merdova, O., and Leheza, Y. "Administrative and Criminal Law Aspects of Preventing Offenses Committed by Minors in the Sphere of Illegal Circulation of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors." Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research 12, no. 10, (2023): 1-9.

[14] Rahin, V. B., and Rahin, A. B. "A Low-Voltage and Low-Power Two-Stage Operational Amplifier Using FinFET Transistors." International Academic Journal of Science and Engineering, 4, no. 2, (2017): 210–225.

[15] On operational and investigative activities: Law of Ukraine of February 18, 1992 // VVR. - 1992. - No. 22. - Art. 303.

[16] Olena Volobuieva, Yevhen Leheza, Vita Pervii, Yevhenii Plokhuta, and Roman Pichko. "Criminal and administrative legal characteristics of offenses in the field of countering drug trafficking: Insights from Ukraine." Yustisia 12, no. 3 (2023): 262-277. https://doi.org/10.20961/yustisia.v12i3.79443

[17] Wenyi Zhang, and Dongkwon Seong. "Using artificial intelligence to strengthen the interaction between humans and computers and biosensor cooperation." Journal of Wireless Mobile Networks, Ubiquitous Computing, and Dependable Applications 15, no. 4 (2024): 53-

continuation of the practice of concluding international treaties of Ukraine on issues of combating and countering organized crime; expansion of the practice of concluding international treaties on cooperation in combating crime, in particular organized crime, between law enforcement agencies of Ukraine and relevant bodies of foreign states; establishment of constant exchange of experience of special units on combating organized crime of Ukraine with law enforcement agencies of foreign states, internships and training abroad of relevant specialists.[19]

In terms of international legal regulation of cooperation between law enforcement agencies in combating crime, the recommendation document adopted at the tenth plenary session of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS member states in 1997 - the Model Law on Operational and Investigative Activities of the CIS member states is noteworthy. It is possible that this document may later to some extent influence the unification of the domestic legislation of the CIS countries.[20]

Article 11 of the Law governing the utilization of operational and investigative findings outlines: agencies engaged in operational and investigative endeavors, adhering to international treaties and respecting domestic legal standards, furnish the CIS member states with operational and investigative findings at no cost; operational-search actions, initiated within the confines of one Commonwealth nation and subsequently extended into another, are deemed permissible, provided that such actions comply with the provisions of the respective national laws. The resulting findings from these actions are to be employed in accordance with the parameters of the national legal framework.

Experts distinguish various types of legal regulation of the activities of law enforcement agencies in the fight against international crime. The most common are the contractual-legal (or convention) mechanism proposed by O.M. Bandurka through the conclusion of special agreements and the institutional mechanism within the framework of international organizations. At the same time, the second type is qualitatively new and more effective in the cooperation of states, an important addition to the system of contractual relations. The activities of international law enforcement agencies and organizations are a necessary response to the need of states for permanent forms of coordination and coordination of joint efforts in certain areas and within certain limits. It is noted that there is constant interaction and interconnection between the two named types of cooperation[21]. Firstly, international bodies and organizations are created on the basis of relevant intergovernmental treaties, and secondly, within the framework of intergovernmental organizations, new agreements are developed and adopted, and

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68. https://doi.org/10.58346/JOWUA.2024.I4.005

[18] Hua, Zhou Li. "Elucidating the Role of Cytochrome p450 Enzymes in Drug Metabolism and Interactions." Clinical Journal for Medicine, Health and Pharmacy 2, no. 3 (2024): 1-10. https://cjmhp.com/index.php/journal/article/view/2.3.01

[19] Olha Hryhorash, Maxim Korneyev, Yevgeny Leheza, Liliya Zolotukhina, and Tetiana Hryhorash. "The development of small business as a source of formation of local budget revenues in Ukraine." Investment Management and Financial Innovations 15, no. 1 (2018): 132-140. https://doi.org/10.21511/imfi.15(1).2018.12

[20] Yevhen Leheza, Volodymyr Shablystyi, Irina V. Aristova, Ivan O. Kravchenko, and Tatiana Korniakova. "Foreign experience in legal regulation of combating crime in the sphere of trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors: Administrative and criminal aspect. Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research 12, no. 4 (2023): 1-8.

[21] Azamat Saidov, Zukhra Yakhshieva, Nodira Makhkamova, Mirkomil Gudalov, Nilufar Djuraeva, Oybek Umirzaqov, Ozoda Adilova, and Anvar Juraev. "Examining Environmental Impact through Geological Interactions and Earth's Layers." Archives for Technical Sciences 2, no. 31 (2024): 230-239. https://doi.org/10.70102/afts.2024.1631.230

existing agreements are amended or supplemented, and in some cases bodies are created to control their implementation.[22]

4. Methods of cooperation between states in operational and investigative activities.

Here's a breakdown of the core ways states collaborate in operational-search activities: sharing of intelligence, legal frameworks, and other relevant data is a key component; working together to prevent, uncover, and investigate criminal activities when specific agreements are in place between nations; the apprehension and detention of those suspected of criminal activity, conducted via agreed-upon terms or through occasional requests between states; the handing over of criminals to another state or an international entity so that they can be prosecuted; transferring those serving prison sentences to their home country (if they are citizens of that nation) or the country in which they are normally living; giving over supervision of those who've been conditionally sentenced or conditionally released to the authorities of another country; safeguarding the rights and freedoms of a nation's citizens when dealing with the judicial processes of another country; undertaking joint studies to examine the reasons for crime and other connected problems, as well as exchanging knowledge on best practices within law enforcement and other related agencies; the provision of training to staff, expert services, supplying specialist equipment and scientific-technical solutions, and also giving material and technical support to other countries.[23]

V.O. Bonyak names the following as the main vectors of cooperation between the internal affairs bodies of Ukraine and the law enforcement institutions of the EU at the present stage: combating illegal migration of persons; combating organized crime and terrorism; combating illicit drug trafficking; combating human trafficking; combating money laundering and financing of terrorism; preventing and combating corruption.

As stipulated by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 220, which was issued on March 25, 1993, and concerns the "National Central Bureau of Interpol," Ukrainian law enforcement bodies coordinate with relevant international authorities in the fight against transnational crime via the National Central Bureau of Interpol. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine serves as this National Central Bureau. It's crucial to recognize that the success of the Ukrainian Interpol Bureau's duties hinges significantly on informational backing. This includes the informational and analytical resources that underpin the operations of all Ukrainian law enforcement agencies, alongside those in other nations, thereby making it reliant on information policy, implemented globally, as well as specifically within Ukraine.

The problem of developing a system of "transborder operational and investigative measures" in the fight against international crime, the legal basis for their implementation, and the mechanism of actions for obtaining and using operational information remains unresolved. The development of new complex cross-border operational-search activities, such as legendary enterprises, institutions and organizations, will increase the effectiveness of the international fight against crime. [24]

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[22] Panasyuk S.A., Nikolaychuk V.A., Strylets B.V., Popov I.O. Scientific and practical commentary on the Law of Ukraine "On operational and investigative activities". Kyiv, (2011).
[23] Minka P. Ya., Minka T.P., Khridochkin A.V., Boguslavsky M.G. Operational and investigative activities: Textbook. Dnipropetrovsk, (2011).
[24] Yevhen Leheza, Bogdan Shcherbyna, Yulia Leheza, Olena Pushkina, and Olesia Marchenko. "Features of Applying the Right to Suspension or Complete/Partial Refusal to Fulfill a Duty in Case of Non-Fulfilment of the Counter Duty by the Other Party According to the Civil Legislation of Ukraine." Revista Jurídica Portucalense (2023): 340-359.

An important step in the fight against organized crime of an international nature was the creation of Europol (the European Police Office). The researchers include the following main positive features of cooperation with Europol: interdepartmental cooperation (police, border guard, customs service, gendarmerie (with direct access to national databases)); multilingual cooperation platform - the Bureau of Liaison Officers; safe, fast, profitable information exchange system; study of the crime situation in Europe; assistance in carrying out activities and investigations - analysis, expertise, joint operational-investigative groups (LT)[25]; training projects and specialized trainings; exchange of knowledge between the European Commission and the European Commission[26].

Today, in Ukraine, interdepartmental cooperation on the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies is at a low level. EU countries have a system of various forms of interaction in the law enforcement sphere, but, unfortunately, Ukraine lacks an appropriate legal basis for most of these forms, which leads to inaction in this area[27].

In 2023, a founding act was signed in Brussels on the creation of a new EU body (Eurojust), the purpose of which is to assist the efforts of member states to investigate the most dangerous crimes and coordinate their practical activities in this area. Eurojust is endowed with the rights of a legal entity.

To summarize, it's crucial to underscore that battling crime sits high on the list of priorities for international collaboration among nations. This necessity stems from the need for different countries to work together on this vital issue. Ukraine's aspirations to join the EU are guided by its strategic foreign policy objective: bolstering its capacity to enforce European international agreements pertaining to the fight against crime. When conducting international cooperation in operational and investigative tasks, it's essential to respect national sovereignty, domestic laws, refrain from interfering in internal affairs, and uphold other core principles of international law.

The nature, main focuses, and types of international cooperation between states in combating crime are shaped by the particulars and distinctive features of each severe crime considered as a distinct social event. Further, this international cooperation is strongly linked to the level of advancement in overall cooperation at a given historical time. This directly affects fields like politics, social economics, culture, humanitarian concerns, law, and defense, among others.

International collaboration between states is always developing and refining itself, and therefore, it is prone to natural shifts and may encompass new strategies. Specifically, this may involve creating national plans aimed at fighting crime and corruption. Furthermore, focus areas can be established for the successful rollout of specific programs.

Special aspects of international cooperation include the inevitability of responsibility for committed international criminal crimes; humanism in relation to victims, suspects, accused, defendants, convicted persons; ensuring the rights of its citizens abroad by the state; focusing operational and investigative activities in

[25] Nathan Carter, and Mei-Ling Zhang. "An Investigation of the Relationship between Population Change and Electoral Outcomes." Progression journal of Human Demography and Anthropology (2025): 15-20.

[26] Anil Kumar, and Priya Yadav. "Experimental Investigation on Analysis of Alkaline Treated Natural Fibers Reinforced Hybrid Composites." Association Journal of Interdisciplinary Technics in Engineering Mechanics 2, no. 4 (2024): 25-31. https://ajitem.org/index.php/journal/article/view/EM24005.

[27] Mahendra, K. S., Dinesh Kinslin., Janardhanan, K. A. and Deekshith Dinesh. "Bridging the Divide: Analyzing the Gap Between Engineering Education and Industry Institute Interaction in Kerala." Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services 15, no. 1, (2025): 33–41. https://doi.org/10.51983/ijiss-2025.IJISS.15.1.06

international cooperation only on criminal crimes and persons who committed them; non-interference in the political, religious or public activities of other states.

5. International bodies engaged in operational and investigative activities

The realm of crime prevention initiatives spearheaded by international bodies can be categorized across three distinct domains: collaboration within the United Nations framework. This includes participation from the Security Council, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), headquartered in Vienna, Austria, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and the UN Interregional Research Institute on Crime and Justice, situated in Rome, Italy; joint efforts involving entities like INTERPOL (the International Criminal Police Organization), EUROPOL (the European Police Organization), and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the International Group that devises financial strategies against money laundering; Collaboration thrives within regional frameworks, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the intergovernmental entity known as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), alongside other bodies.

Law enforcement bodies within Ukraine, notably the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (NCB), hold a crucial position amongst the partners cooperating within these frameworks[28].

INTERPOL stands as a pivotal international organization. Its structure, foundational legal underpinnings, and advanced technical resources position it to expertly and efficiently oversee global police collaboration[29].

On its own Interpol cannot conduct independent investigations, solve crimes and track down criminals in different countries[30] [31]. But it acts as a coordinator of police operations carried out by one or more countries, promotes their coherence and synchrony, and announces an international wanted list for a missing criminal. Interpol acts as the only global center for developing a common police strategy and tactics to combat international criminality[32].

Interpol's NCB processes about 140 thousand requests per year, participates in the Invex project to cooperate with global automakers to identify stolen vehicles; in the projects "Kalkan" and "Nexus" (fighting terrorism in Central Asia and Europe), "Millennium" (prevention of transnational crime). Within the framework of the "Twinning" project, patronage has been taken over the NCB of Interpol Syria.

The BRICS bloc, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, orchestrates upwards of a hundred gatherings annually. A notable subset, around

[28] Yevhen Leheza, and Larysa Yerofieienko. "Peculiarities of legal regulation of intellectual property protection in Ukraine under martial law: administrative and civil aspects." Revista Justiça do Direito 37 (2023): 157–72. https://doi.org/10.5335/rjd.v37i3.15233.

[29] Yevhen Leheza, Olena Sinkevych, Zorina Kravtsova, Olena Kudriavtseva, and Ievgeniia Cherniak. "The human right to an environment safe for life and health: legal regulation, contemporary challenges and comparative perspectives." Syariah: Jurnal Hukum dan Pemikiran 23, no. 2 (2023): 138-150. https://doi.org/10.18592/sjhp.v23i2.12257.

[30] Yongquan Zhang. "Digital transformation in talent acquisition: An investigation into the integration of big data analytics and management information systems for optimal hiring strategies." Journal of Internet Services and Information Security 14, no. 4 (2024): 104-120. https://doi.org/10.58346/JISIS.2024.I4.006

[31] Mustafa Akin, Birgül Özcan, Zafer Cantekin, Yaşar Ergün, and Dilşad Bulanık. "Investigation of antiseptic resistance genes in Staphylococcus spp. isolates." Natural and Engineering Sciences 5, no. 3 (2020): 136-143. https://doi.org/10.28978/nesciences.832970

[32] Yevhen Oleksandrovych Leheza, Viktor Filatov, Volodymyr Varava, Vira Halunko, and Kartsyhin Dmytro. "Scientific and practical analysis of administrative jurisdiction in the light of adoption of the new code of administrative procedure of Ukraine." Journal of Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Issues 22, no. 6 (2019).

twenty, are convened at the ministerial level. Furthermore, yearly summits bring together leaders, offering a platform to address a range of security concerns.

As practical measures developed in the CSTO format, it is necessary to note the annual special operational-preventive operations: "Channel" - to combat drug crime, "Illegal" - for stopping illegal migration. To prevent crimes related to the use of innovative technologies, the CSTO conducts the annual "Proxy" operation.

During the "Illegal-2019" operation, 2,200 criminal proceedings were initiated related to drug trafficking; 238 for illegal arms trafficking; 179 for attempted illegal crossing of the state border and 51 for crimes of an extremist and terrorist nature.

Within the structure of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the primary method of collaboration in the realm of crime prevention is facilitated by the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of the CIS Member States (CMIA). Formed in 1996, the CMIA was created to encourage cooperation and the alignment of strategies in combating criminal activities. [33], [34].

Functioning continuously, the Bureau for Coordination of Combating Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crime in the Territory of the CIS Member States (BCBOZ) operates under the authority of the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of the CIS Member States. This bureau plays an active role in fostering the sharing of both practical knowledge and pertinent information among the respective Ministries of Internal Affairs.[35]

The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO RATS) maintains a comprehensive registry, encompassing some 2,500 high-risk terrorists alongside details on more than 70 terrorist-linked entities. Throughout its operational history, SCO structures have successfully thwarted in excess of 300 instances of terrorist and extremist criminal activity[36].

Presently, SCO RATS maintains active collaborative relationships with key international bodies. These include the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, Interpol, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, the Anti-Terrorism Center of the CIS Member States, and the Central Asian Regional Information Coordination Center for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors.

Stephen Hawking (1942-2018), the celebrated English astrophysicist and author, identified several primary threats facing contemporary civilization. These included: a) the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weaponry; b) the potential for ecological or climate-related disasters; c) the uncontrolled evolution of algorithmic systems (artificial intelligence); d) the risk of an Earth-asteroid collision; and e) the escalating problem of global overpopulation.

These observations strongly suggest that preventing a catastrophic outcome for humanity demands a global, collaborative effort across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Paramount importance must be given to international partnership, knowledge sharing, aligned decision-making processes, and the resolution of disputes exclusively through peaceful and diplomatic means.

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[33] Elena Viktorovna Bykova, and Vyskub Vitalii Sergeevich, "International cooperation or politics?." International criminal law and international justice no. 3 (2018): 3-5.

[34] Tetiana Ye Leonenko, Maksym I. Leonenko, O. Shkuta, and Vasyl M. Yurchyshyn. "Features of group motivation for criminal acts committed on the grounds of religious hatred or hostility." Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics 10, no. 3 (41) (2019): 834-841. https://doi.org/10.14505//jarle.v10.3(41).19.

[35] International cooperation in combating crime: textbook / S.V. Troitsky [et al.]; corresponding editor. R.A. Kalamkaryan. M. Yurayt (2020).

[36] Oleh Shkuta, Dmytro Karbovskyi, Olena Pushkina, Mykola Potip, and Olena Varhuliak. "Object and subject of state control in the sphere of legal turnover of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors in Ukraine: Administrative, criminal and civil-legal aspect." Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research 12, no. 7 (2023): 236-255.

6. Human rights in operational and investigative activities

Human rights in operational and investigative activities are a very important and relevant topic, because operational and investigative activities (OID) can affect the personal freedoms and rights of citizens. OID is one of the main tools of law enforcement agencies to combat criminal manifestations, but at the same time it requires compliance with human rights and freedoms. The improper use of such methods can violate fundamental human rights enshrined in the Constitution, international agreements and acts.

Here are some main aspects of this topic.

Legality and legitimacy of law enforcement actions. Operational and investigative activities should be carried out exclusively on the basis of the law. This means that law enforcement officers should act only within the limits defined by law and cannot violate the fundamental rights of citizens without appropriate procedural order.

The right to privacy. One of the important aspects is ensuring the right to privacy. OID includes various methods, for example, wiretapping, collecting information through surveillance, and using technical means. All these actions must be carefully monitored and carried out only with grounds and judicial permission (if it is an intervention in private life).

Protection from unlawful detention and search. According to the Constitution, every person has the right to freedom and personal integrity. Any detention or search must be lawful and carried out within the limits provided for by law. In case of violation of these norms, a person has the right to challenge such actions in court.

Right to protection. Operational and investigative activities can lead to situations where a person may become a suspect or victim. In such cases, the right to legal assistance is guaranteed, as well as the right to be informed about the grounds for conducting any operational and investigative measures.

Control over the legality of operational and investigative activities. An important component is the presence of bodies that exercise control over the activities of law enforcement agencies. This may be judicial control or special bodies, such as the prosecutor's office or internal control bodies within the law enforcement agencies themselves.

International standards. Ukraine is part of the international community, therefore, compliance with human rights in operational and investigative activities must comply with international standards, in particular the norms of the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments;

The relationship between the fight against crime and human rights

It is necessary to find a balance between the effectiveness of the fight against criminal manifestations and the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens. Violation of human rights in the process of operational and investigative activities can lead to a violation of trust in law enforcement agencies and negatively affect democratic processes in the country[37].

7. Multicultural cooperation in operational and investigative activities

Multicultural cooperation in operational and investigative activities is an important aspect of international security, especially in the context of globalization and increasing mobility of people. It includes the exchange of information,

[37] Krupytskyi Oleksandr, Dikhtiievskyi Petro, Denys Krylov, Balamush Mariana, Leheza Yevhen. 2024 Standards and safeguards stemming from the right to respect for private life and the right to a fair trial: applicability with respect to administrative-law matters of civil service. Revista Eletrônica Direito e Sociedade. 12 (3). 1-12 DOI: https://doi.org/10.18316/redes.v12i3.11977

coordination of actions and joint operations between law enforcement agencies of different countries, taking into account various cultural, social and legal features. Modern criminal organizations often operate at the international level, so effective multicultural cooperation becomes critically important.

The main areas of multicultural cooperation in operational and investigative activities:

International cooperation of law enforcement agencies.

One of the main instruments of multicultural cooperation are international law enforcement organizations and initiatives, such as Interpol, Europol, the European Union Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Crime (EMCDDA), as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements between countries.

These organizations provide: exchange of information on criminals and criminal schemes; joint operations and investigations; training and education of personnel to work in multicultural environments.

Cultural and legal differences. In multicultural cooperation, it is important to take into account the cultural characteristics of different countries. For example, some cultures may be more sensitive to personal privacy, while others may pay less attention to freedom of speech or movement. Law enforcement agencies must take these aspects into account to avoid human rights violations, especially in countries where the legal culture may differ from national standards.

Common standards and international agreements.[38] To achieve effective multicultural cooperation, countries conclude various agreements that define the rules for exchanging information, jointly developing operations and mutual assistance in law enforcement. The most well-known agreements are: the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention); the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime; the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters; these agreements allow to ensure legal order in investigations where one of the parties is foreign; exchange of intelligence

Multicultural cooperation in operational and investigative activities also includes the active exchange of intelligence information between states, which allows to better understand the structure of international criminal organizations, as well as to detect their activities in different jurisdictions.

This exchange may concern the following areas: cross-border drug trafficking; human trafficking; international terrorism; cybercrime.

Thanks to this cooperation, it is possible to respond promptly to threats and minimize their impact on national security.

Participation in multicultural training programs is an important element for developing the competencies of law enforcement officers working in international environments. The aim of such programs is to expand knowledge of international law, political and cultural differences, and to create a network of contacts between law enforcement agencies of different countries for future joint operations.

Operational and investigative measures in the context of transnational organized crime. Joint tactics and strategies for combating terrorism. Joint methods of information collection and investigation of international crimes.

Of course, multicultural cooperation is not without its problems:

Language barrier: communication difficulties are often encountered, especially when it comes to exchanging intelligence.

Legal differences: different countries have their own standards of evidence, rules for conducting investigations, and citizens' rights, which complicates cooperation.

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[38] Volkova, Y. ., Bon, B., Borysenko, A., Leheza, Y., & Leheza, Y. (2024). Crypto Market Experience: Navigating Regulatory Challenges in Modern Conditions. Al-Risalah: Forum Kajian Hukum Dan Sosial Kemasyarakatan, 24(2), 178–194. https://doi.org/10.30631/alrisalah.v24i2.1625

Ethical issues: some countries may have different ethical norms regarding investigations or methods of combating crime.

Joint operations and their effectiveness[39]. To ensure successful multicultural cooperation, it is important to conduct joint operations where law enforcement officers from different countries interact in real time. These can include: international raids; joint investigation teams.

Coordination of national agencies with international organizations.

These operations can significantly increase the effectiveness of the fight against international crime and ensure faster detection of criminals.

Modern technologies play an important role in multicultural cooperation. The shared use of resources such as information exchange systems (for example, SIS - Schengen Information System), Interpol databases, international cryptographic systems allows for effective cooperation at the global level, exchange data and coordinate efforts.

8. Comparative analysis of international cooperation in operational and investigative activities of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Persian Gulf

International cooperation in operational and investigative activities of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is highly organized and deeply integrated. It is based on common institutions, a common vision of threats and active interaction with international partners. This model allows for effective counteraction to transnational crime, terrorism and cyber threats in the region.

Key mechanisms and bodies of cooperation

Cooperation within the GCC is implemented through a number of specialized bodies that coordinate the actions of the law enforcement structures of the participating countries:

GCCPOL: This central body, established in 2015, plays a key role in coordinating law enforcement services. Its main tasks are the exchange of criminal information, conducting joint operations and preventing crimes. GCCPOL actively cooperates with such global organizations as Interpol and Europol[40].

GCC-CICCD: Established in 2007, the center serves as a hub for exchanging communications and analytical data related to the fight against drug trafficking in the region[41].

Joint Defense Agreement: Based on the concept of a "common destiny," this treaty stipulates that an attack on one GCC country is considered an attack on the entire bloc. It provides a solid legal basis for military and law enforcement cooperation, including operational actions[42].

Comparative analysis

Compared to other regional structures, GCC cooperation has several distinctive features:

High integration: Unlike, for example, the League of Arab States (LAS), which unites significantly more countries with different political regimes and interests, the GCC has a smaller number of members with close cultural, political and economic

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[39] Shkuta, O., Leheza, Y., Telelym, I., Anosienkov, A., & Yaroshak, O. (2024). National Security in the Conditions of the Russia-Ukraine War: Legal Regulation and Islamic Law Perspectives. Al-Ahkam, 34(1). 99-120. doi: https://doi.org/10.21580/ahkam.2024.34.1.20413

[40] Interpol. Our partnerships with regional policing bodies. https://www.interpol.int/Who-we-are/Our-partners/Our-partnerships-with-regional-policing-bodies.

[41] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Criminal Information Center for Combating Drugs. https://gocase.unodc.org/gocase/events/news140101.html.

[42] Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). GCC Vision for Regional Security. https://www.gcc-sg.org/ar/MediaCenter/DigitalLibrary/Documents/GCCPOL%20EE.pdf.

ties. This creates greater trust and simplifies the exchange of sensitive information. Studies emphasize that the lack of a single law enforcement mechanism in the LAS makes it weaker than the European or American systems[43].

Systemic and technological approach: GCC countries are actively investing in common technological platforms to combat cybercrime, financial crimes and other new threats[44]. This puts them on a par with leading global partners, allowing them to effectively interact with Europol and Interpol, which is not always typical for less developed regional groups.

Shared Threat Vision: GCC countries share a shared vision of the threats posed by transnational criminal groups and radical ideologies, which contributes to a high level of security coordination. Although there are differences among states, a general consensus on domestic and regional security prevails.

9. Conclusion

Based on the comparative analysis of foreign experience, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding international cooperation in operational and investigative activities: legal regulation and international standards of operational and investigative activities**;** methods of cooperation between states in operational and investigative activities; international bodies engaged in operational and investigative activities; human rights in operational and investigative activities; multicultural cooperation in operational and investigative activities.

International cooperation is critically important for combating transnational crime, but its effectiveness largely depends on the unification of national legislation. The successful experience of countries, in particular within the European Union, shows that harmonization of legal norms, criminalization of certain acts, and simplification of mutual legal assistance procedures are key factors.

The experience of organizations such as Interpol and Europol demonstrates the importance of having specialized international institutions. These structures provide coordination, information exchange, and create a reliable platform for cooperation. The success of such institutions is based on: a wide network of contacts: The ability to quickly contact colleagues from other countries. Centralized databases: Access to information about wanted persons, stolen vehicles, etc.; joint analytical centers: Analysis of information coming from different countries to identify patterns and hidden connections.

The analysis shows that leading countries in the field of international cooperation are actively implementing modern technologies. This includes not only secure communication channels, but also the use of digital forensics, big data analysis systems and artificial intelligence to predict criminal actions. These technologies allow for the effective investigation of cybercrime, financial fraud and other complex types of transnational crime.

Cooperation often encounters obstacles related to national sovereignty and confidentiality of information. Foreign experience shows that these problems can be solved by concluding detailed agreements that clearly regulate the scope and procedure for exchanging information, ensuring its protection. This creates trust between partners and stimulates them to closer cooperation.

International cooperation in operational and investigative activities is not just a desirable, but a vital condition for ensuring national security in the context of globalization. It requires a comprehensive approach that includes improving the

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[43] Europol. Enhances Law Enforcement Cooperation with the Gulf States.: https://eucrim.eu/news/europol-enhances-law-enforcement-cooperation-with-the-gulf-states/.

[44] bdel Ghaffar, A. (2025). Shifting Sands: Threat Perceptions and Security Among Gulf Cooperation Council Member States. Taylor & Francis Online.: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19448953.2025.2481810.

legal framework, deepening institutional interaction, active implementation of technologies and addressing issues of trust and confidentiality. The successful experience of leading countries in the world emphasizes that only through close cooperation and joint efforts can one effectively confront the modern challenges of transnational crime.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that the fight against crime is one of the priority areas of international cooperation between states and is caused by the need for interaction between different states in this important matter. Accession to the EU is determined by the strategic goal of Ukraine's foreign policy, aimed at strengthening the ability to ensure the implementation of European international agreements in the field of combating crime. International cooperation in operational and investigative activities must be carried out in compliance with state sovereignty, national legislation, adherence to the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of nations, along with other core tenets of international law, forms the foundation of this discussion. The reach, principal approaches, and structures through which states collaborate internationally to combat crime are contingent upon the specifics and intrinsic traits of each severe criminal act, which manifests as a unique societal issue. Moreover, this international partnership in the fight against criminality is intricately linked to the historical progression of general cooperation, including collaboration within political, socio-economic, cultural, humanitarian, legal, military, and various other sectors. The cooperative endeavors among nations are in a perpetual state of evolution, thereby inherently subject to adjustment and expansion to include innovative methods. For example, the drafting of national initiatives aimed at addressing crime and corruption can be anticipated, and the vital components for putting those specialized plans into effect can be pinpointed.

Special aspects of international cooperation include the inevitability of responsibility for committed international criminal crimes; humanism in relation to victims, suspects, accused, defendants, convicted persons; ensuring the rights of its citizens abroad by the state; focusing operational and investigative activities in international cooperation only on criminal crimes and persons who committed them; non-interference in the political, religious or public activities of other states.

Regarding the prevention and deterrence of crime, significant potential is inherent in the use of modern information technologies and robotics (artificial intelligence, Big Data, quantum cryptography, 3D and 4D printers, the use of drones, recognition of criminals, terrorists, search for missing persons, based on neural networks, psychological innovations, forensic research, etc.). When carrying out the prevention and deterrence of crime, it is necessary to take into account the factors influencing transnational organized crime, as well as the economic, political, social, and cultural state of countries. It is necessary to achieve a balance between restrictive, punitive, and security measures with preventive measures that minimize crime. Ultimately, fair justice will be facilitated by high standards of ethical behavior of law enforcement officers, a combination of the scale of criminal threats and appropriate police measures, and the level of professionalism and competence in detecting, investigating, and adjudicating in criminal proceedings.

In general, operational and investigative activities are a powerful tool for combating crime, but at the same time they must be regulated extremely carefully so as not to violate human rights. Therefore, there is a constant discussion in Ukraine about improving legislation in this area in order to ensure maximum protection of citizens' rights when conducting operational and investigative activities.

Multicultural cooperation in operational and investigative activities is a key element in the fight against international crime, but it also requires a high level of coordination, understanding of cultural and legal specificities, and continuous improvement of the legal framework to ensure respect for human rights in different countries.

European countries demonstrate the highest level of integration and mutual trust. The US is distinguished by its powerful resources and global reach. China prefers bilateral agreements and controls the level of cooperation. Interpol and Europol play a key role, acting as coordination centers rather than executive bodies.

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